

team of Alyssa Balandran, Grace Kohout, Marisa Marinchak and Gabriella Rico also brought home gold with a time of 9:52.68. Cinco Ranch High School freshman Heidi Nielson placed first in the 1,600-meter run with an incredible 4:53.43 time. Otito Ogbonnia, a senior at Taylor High School threw the discus an impressive 185 feet and 9 inches, bringing home the gold in this event.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to all of these incredible and talented athletes for these great achievements. We look forward to seeing what their bright futures hold.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA LEVIN—28TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 12, 2018*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Brenda Levin of Los Feliz, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born in New Jersey, Brenda Levin lived on the East Coast until she was 30 and never expected to leave. After studying graphic design at Carnegie Mellon and earning her undergraduate degree at New York University, she worked for a few years before returning to school to earn a Master of Architecture degree from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design in 1976. There she met her future husband, David Abel, who was determined to go west and convinced Brenda there would be more opportunities for women in male-dominated fields such as architecture. Her first job in California was working with prominent residential architect John Lautner on his design of a Palm Springs house for entertainer Bob Hope.

From that day forward, Ms. Levin has touched the historic and cultural spirit and complexity of Los Angeles, significantly shaping the city skyline as we know it. For over 20 years her architecture and urban planning firm, Levin & Associates Architects, has pioneered, in collaboration with innovative developers, the process of historic preservation by the polishing the riches of the city with a new sheen, and her success in this effort has helped to energize the preservation movement in Los Angeles. Among the landmarks she has helped to preserve and revitalize are Grand Central and Chapman markets, the Oviatt, Fine Arts and Bradbury Buildings, the Wiltern Theater and Los Angeles City Hall. In the revitalization/preservation process are the Griffith Observatory, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings at Barnsdall Art Park and the Japanese American National Museum's National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, among others.

In the spring of 2000, the Boone Gallery designed by Brenda opened at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino and Art, Design & Architecture Museum at the University of California, Santa

Barbara. Ms. Levin's housing projects include the nationally-recognized Downtown Women's Center for mentally-ill, homeless women in Los Angeles and the Adams Congress affordable apartments in south Los Angeles.

Ms. Levin's exceptional work has been recognized with numerous awards. She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the AIA/LA selected her as recipient of the 2010 Gold Medal for her contributions in the preservation and revitalization movement in Los Angeles. In addition, in 2014, she received the Rose Award from the Los Angeles Parks Foundation, and in 2017, Brenda was the recipient of the Los Angeles Architectural Angel Award from Project Restore.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Brenda Levin.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. JOHNNIE MAE  
SITTONEN

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 12, 2018*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my friend, Congressman MICHAEL BURGESS, to pay tribute to Johnnie Mae Sittonen, a World War II veteran and Des Arc, Arkansas native who passed away in January of this year. Throughout her life, Johnnie Mae Sittonen served her country, her Arkansas community, and her family selflessly.

Johnnie Mae Sittonen was born in Biscoe, Arkansas in 1924. In 1942, she graduated from Des Arc High School as an exemplary student and enrolled at Arkansas State University. As a young woman, Johnnie Mae was one of the great Americans who volunteered to serve our nation. She joined the U.S. Navy in 1944, at the height of World War II. During her service, she met and married Paul Sittonen. After several years in Massachusetts, she and her husband Paul returned to Des Arc in 1959 to raise their five children and run a family farm.

Johnnie Mae Sittonen spent many years serving her Arkansas community. For more than 20 years, she worked in the Des Arc Schools as the cafeteria supervisor before retiring in 1986. A committed member of the First United Methodist Church in Des Arc, she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and served as an active member of United Methodist Women. She was a lifelong Democrat, and served as both the Chair of the Prairie County Democratic Women's Group and as an active member of the Retired Teachers Association.

Johnnie Mae Sittonen's hard work for those in her community did not go unnoticed. She was honored as the Outstanding Community Citizen in 1972 and the Des Arc High School Citizen of the Year in 1983, and later received Baptist Health's Amazing Spirit Award in 2006.

A member of the "Greatest Generation," Johnnie Mae Sittonen is an example of American excellence, servant-hearted kindness, and commitment to service. She will be deeply missed, not only by her family and loved ones, but also by the northeast Arkansas community she served throughout her life.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA SOTO—CALI-  
FORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 12, 2018*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Every year, we dedicate the month of March to give special recognition to the accomplishments and sacrifices made by America's women. I consider it an honor to highlight the extraordinary women who are making a difference in my District. I would like to recognize one outstanding woman, Gloria Soto, of Santa Maria, California.

Gloria Soto was born and raised in the Santa Maria and Guadalupe areas of Santa Barbara County. She comes from an immigrant family who instilled the value of hard work and determination, and made numerous sacrifices to ensure she would have a chance at a better life. Gloria took advantage of every opportunity and graduated from Pioneer Valley High School, Allan Hancock College, and then from Bradman University all while working full time.

Gloria started out as an educator about 6 years ago where she built up educational programs from Lompoc to Paso Robles. She initiated Young Advocates groups in Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo that encourage young people to speak up for reproductive rights. Gloria now works in the development department of Planned Parenthood of the Central Coast where she strives to protect and expand access to reproductive health care in her community. She also educates donors about the importance of their continued support.

In addition to her work for Planned Parenthood, Gloria also serves on the board of Future Leaders of America where she volunteers hundreds of hours training youth leaders and directing week-long youth leadership camps. She is also a board member of the Fund for Santa Barbara, a member of the Activist-Led Grant Making Committee, and a key organizer for the Latino Legacy Awards in Santa Maria.

Gloria's contribution to social justice for a more just community are immeasurable, she is not afraid to get her hands dirty and understands the importance of taking leadership roles in organizations so they can better serve our community. She is a champion for youth, immigrants, and women, and we are lucky to have her in our district.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Gloria Soto, for her incredible service to her community.

**JULIE M. NAUMAN**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 12, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Julie Nauman had dedicated her life to improving the lives of victims. Julie has been a tireless advocate for those who are less fortunate.

Her work on the Executive Office of the California Crime Compensation Board has led